

Application No.: 09/764,001
Filed: January 17, 2001
Group Art Unit: 1754

changes is attached.

1. On page 7, lines 22-24, please delete "As carriers, activated alumina and silica are suggested, which are Claus active supports." and insert therefor "As carrier, activated alumina is suggested, which is a Claus active support."

2. On page 10, line 20, please delete "silica" and insert therefor "activated alumina".

3. On page 11, lines 2-3, please delete " activated alumina or silica, i.e., on supports that do" and insert therefor " support, e.g. an activated alumina, i.e. on a support that does".

REMARKS

Due to miscommunication between the inventors' agent and the undersigned firm, statements made in the Amendment filed 10/30/02 should be corrected.

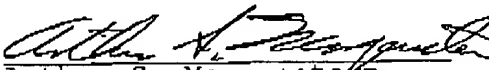
In accordance with the discussion of 11/6/02 between Examiner Vanoy and the undersigned, only those changes that need to be made in the Amendment of 10/30/02 are indicated herein.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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ASM/281641-4

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MARK-UP OF AMENDMENT FILED 10/30/02

Paragraph on page 7, line 15 through page 8, line 2:

US 5,965,100 relates to a Claus process wherein use is made of a conventional Claus catalyst and of a special catalyst comprising a mixture of metal oxides or a mixed metal oxide, wherein the metal is defined as at least two of the transition metals occurring in the first transition group of the periodic table. The special catalyst is used at a temperature below 300 °C. As the only example of such a catalyst, a CuCrO_2 catalytic material on a carrier is disclosed. [As carriers, activated alumina and silica are suggested, which are Claus active supports.] As carrier, activated alumina is suggested, which is a Claus active support. The catalyst should have a surface area of at least 6 m^2/g . However, no catalyst is actually shown herein with a surface area of more than 20 m^2/g .

Paragraphs on page 10, line 14 through page 11, line 7:

With respect to claim 19, note that the cited prior art does not disclose a catalyst comprising a SiO_2 support that exhibits substantially no reversing Claus activity under the conditions as defined in the present application. As discussed above, US '415 definitely suggests not to use any support at all and US 100 only suggests Claus active support materials such as

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[silica] activated alumina.

With respect to claim 20, obviously US '415 teaches away from using a catalyst having a catalytically active material content of less than 50 % by weight because it teaches that it is preferred not to use a support. With respect to col 5, l. 54-56 of US '100, note that this only teaches that at least 20 wt. % of CuCrO_2 can be present on a [activated alumina or silica, i.e., on supports that do] support, e.g. an activated alumina, i.e. on a support that does not meet the criterion of "not having reversing Claus activity" as defined in the present claims. So both the catalytic material and the carrier are different from these components of a catalyst according to the present invention.